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To most people, no doubt, the main interest of the present edition will consist in the light it throws on the connection between Mr. Spencer's earlier ideas and his later theory of evolution. This connection is indicated by a number of useful notes.

J. S. MACKENZIE.

**CRIME AND ITS CAUSES.** By William Douglas Morrison, of H. M. prison, Wandsworth. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1891.

This is a work which, considering its limits and modest pretensions, it is difficult to overpraise. The writer's position as a prison chaplain has afforded him ample practical experience, while every page of the book attests his acquaintance with the scientific literature (chiefly foreign) bearing on his subject. It is a calm and thoughtful study by a writer in whom the deliberate determination to look at things as they are has not extinguished a reasoned faith in the possibility of their amelioration. The work is conceived throughout in a genuinely philosophical spirit.

The chapter-headings of the book will give some idea of its contents : "The Statistics of Crime," "Climate and Crime," "The Seasons and Crime," "Destitution and Crime," "Poverty in Crime," "Sex, Age, and Crime," "The Criminal in Body and Mind," "The Punishment of Crime."

From the point of view of psychological curiosity, the conclusion that heat, whether permanent or temporary, has some direct (as well as much indirect) influence in stimulating crime, will be found one of Mr. Morrison's most striking results. More important from a practical point of view is his disproof of the popular notions,—(1) that crime is mainly due to destitution or poverty; (2) that education is a certain cure for crime; (3) that crime is actually in course of rapid disappearance under the influence of education and other civilizing agencies. With regard to the first of these points, he shows conclusively that but a very small proportion of the world's crime is due to poverty. One of the exceptions is the existence of a small amount of vagrancy and petty theft in old men no longer able to earn the full union rate of wages; and he urges that trades-unions should relax their rules in favor of elderly or infirm members. With regard to the second, he shows that the educated classes commit fully as much crime in proportion to their numbers as any other class, putting aside the professionally criminal class, which is admittedly ignorant. (Mr. Morrison should, perhaps, have raised the question whether this class is not chiefly recruited from the most uneducated class of the community.) Under the third head, he contends that the apparent decline of crime in this country is due to (a) the number of juvenile offenders now confined in reformatories and industrial schools, and so temporarily incapacitated for crime, (b) to the tendency to pass lighter sentences. It would be absurd to put forward such facts as any refutation of a sober socialism; but they tend to disprove the optimistic theory of Mr. Belfort Bax's work in the same series, "The Ethics of Socialism," where an attempt is made to show that the "Criminal Law under Socialism" would be all but unnecessary. Still less is this practical and scientific student of crime disposed to "object to the repression of crime by organized brutality." He is "reactionary" enough to believe in the efficacy of punishment when sufficiently severe, and when supplemented by directly moral-

izing agencies, of which *moral* education is, no doubt, one. According to the judicial statistics for England and Wales, imprisonment is successful after the third time in about eighty per cent. of the cases annually submitted to the criminal courts. He is no less emphatic in the assertion that there is a class who are practically irreformable, and the principal reform recommended in our penal system is, that a distinction should be made between these two classes.

"A society based upon the principle of individual liberty is a society of which the members are supposed to be gifted with the virtues of prudence, industry, and self-control; virtues of this nature are, indeed, essential to the existence of such a form of society. Unfortunately, a certain portion of its members do not possess them, even in an elementary degree, and no amount of seclusion in prison will ever confer these qualities upon them. Imprisonment, to be followed by liberty, however rigorous it is made, is, accordingly, no solution of the difficulty; the only effective way of dealing with the incorrigible vagrant, drunkard, and thief is by some system of permanent seclusion in a penal colony. All men are not fitted for freedom, and so long as society acts on the supposition that they are, it will never get rid of the incorrigible criminal." When will parliaments and judges give up the absurd system of going on passing, time after time, sentences which experience has shown to be incapable of reforming the criminal, or of protecting society against him?

We should, indeed, have been glad for a good deal more in the way of practical and detailed suggestion from a writer so well qualified to speak with authority upon the matter. We should have liked both suggestions for the reform to existing law and advice as to its practical administration: most judges and magistrates might learn something even from what Mr. Morrison has given us. He does not appear to be anxious for the abolition of capital punishment, but assumes that the tendency of the age is in that direction. We should have liked to hear his views upon the still more disputed question of corporal punishment. He has nothing to say on the subject even in relation to juvenile offenders, with whom he admits that the effect of a first imprisonment is simply to dispel the vague terror with which the idea of prison has hitherto been associated. Would not the same be more or less true of many "juveniles" too old to be sent to reformatories, and in fact of most prisoners accustomed to a hard life and imprisoned only for very short periods?

H. RASHDALL.

#### THE DARKEST ENGLAND SOCIAL SCHEME: A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE FIRST YEAR'S WORK. London, E.C., December, 1891.

General Booth's social scheme has now been a year in working, and in this volume we are furnished with an audited statement of accounts, and a description of the different departments of the scheme, and of their actual *modus operandi*. The description is drawn on the same lines as the original book, is as highly colored, and as skilfully calculated to appeal to the sympathies; but there is, perhaps, more emotion in it than fact, though some of the facts recorded are sufficiently notorious and oppressing. It is to the accounts, however, that General Booth's critics will naturally turn for material for finding fault. They will discover that the Salvation Army has handed over to the fund properties of